

Sofranko recruits with passion

**By: Staff Sgt. Shannon Parks
179th Public Affairs Specialist**

She braved life in the barren desert, spent time in muddy foxholes, dealt with counter drug activities and traveled to exotic places. In summary, Staff Sgt. Dana Sofranko, the newest addition to the 179th Airlift Wing recruiting team, lives the Ohio Air National Guard life. These experiences, coupled with a rock solid work ethic, landed Sofranko the highly coveted 179th recruiting position.

"Ten extremely competitive candidates applied for this position but her passion for the Ohio Air National Guard, communication skills and past experience with youth in the counter drug program made her the standout," said Master Sgt. Mark Dyer, recruiting manager. Dyer worked with Sofranko while in services squadron. "I already knew her work ethic...she was my right hand person," he said.

As a recruiter Sofranko is responsible for recruiting at least three new members per month. "I spread the word, share my experiences, determine if there is a mutual fit and help them

through the process," she said.

Although Sofranko is no longer able to deploy she looks forward to informing new recruits about the National Guard. "I like sharing my experiences. I can tell newcomers about the travel and education benefits. I have seen it and done it," said Sofranko.

Having access to such benefits left Sofranko with a desire to give back to the Guard. "I gained so much from my Guard experience. I want to show my appreciation and do my part," she said.

Sofranko is successful in her new position although she has not attended the month long technical



Staff Sgt. Dana Sofranko talks to a new recruit about the 179th Airlift Wing.

school required for recruiters. In her first month on the job she recruited five new members. One of her recruits, Jamie Bishop, thought Sofranko was down to earth, easy to relate to and extremely knowledgeable.

"She gave me her cell phone number when I went through military in-processing," said Bishop. "She made the process smooth sailing."

Ohio participates in pilot mentoring program

**By: Chief Gregory Eyster
Mentoring Process Coordinator**

On Friday, Oct. 25, 2002 a mentoring kick off was held in Columbus, Ohio. This kick off briefing was conducted by the Air National Guard Mentoring Process Team to officially welcome Ohio as one of the pilot states to implement the ANG Mentoring Process. Ohio was selected because of the large number of flying units and personnel, along with prior experience in mentoring amongst the units.

The ANG recognizes the positive results a formal mentoring program can achieve and is providing resources and

support to those unit mentoring programs currently in place and those being developed. Members of the ANG Mentoring Process Team reviewed a new ANG draft regulation and implementation process. They also shared numerous success stories, strategies and suggestions to make this initiative successful.

As this new initiative is launched the background research and experience the 179th Airlift Wing already has with mentoring combined with the resources and guidance from the ANG, promises to provide all members of the 179th AW the opportunity to participate in the benefits.

The 179th is currently reviewing all the new guidance from ANG, formulating new leadership strategy and an advisory team with the intent to incorporate and provide a revitalized mentoring program in the near future.

More information will be provided to all members of the unit as soon as the coordination and planning is complete. I encourage every member to consider the contributions and benefits of participating in this voluntary program.